

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SECSTATE WASHDC 9099
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO HOLD MEETING IN ROME

1. ITALIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED CONVENING DURING PERIOD JULY 28-30 IN ROME OF PLENARY SESSION OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC) OF THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE). CC MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN A PUBLIC THEATER IN DOWNTOWN ROME AND WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. PRESS STATES THAT IT IS BEING HELD IN ITALY BECAUSE THE MONARCHY HAS REFUSED TO AUTHORIZE IT IN SPAIN AND WITH THE HELP AND SOLIDARITY OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI).

2. ACCORDING TO THE JULY 24 ISSUE OF THE PCI DAILY L'UNITA, THE CC OF THE PCE HAS 125 MEMBERS OF WHOM 29 ALSO SERVE ON THE PARTY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE SAME REPORT INDICATES THAT THE BULK OF THE CC MEMBERS LIVE AND OPERATE WITHIN SPAIN.

3. VETERAN PARTY LEADER DOLORES IBARRURI (FROM BUCHAREST) AND PARTY SECRETARY CARILLO HAVE ARRIVED IN ROME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CC PLENUM. THOSE

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CC MEMBERS LISTED AS NOT ATTENDING BECAUSE THEY ARE

IMPRISONED IN SPAIN ARE SIMON SANCHEZ MONTORO,
SANTIAGO ALVAREZ, FRANCISCO ROMERO MARIN AND JOSE
LUIS NIETO. L'UNITA INDICATES THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF
DEMOCRATIC COORDINATION, OF OTHER DEMOCRATIC FORCES, AND
OF POPULAR UNITY GROUPS WILL ATTEND THE CC AS OBSERVERS.

4. COMMENT. STAGING OF THE PCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IN
ROME DEMONSTRATES THE GROWING STRENGTH OF THE ITALIAN
COMMUNIST PARTY ON THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SCENE. WHILE
THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT PRESUMABLY IS NOT HAPPY ABOUT
THE SELECTION OF ROME FOR THIS EVENT WHICH WILL
INVOLVE CRITICISM OF A GOVERNMENT WITH WHOM IT HAS
FRIENDLY RELATIONS, AUTHORITIES ARE LOATH TO INTERVENE GIVEN
THE CURRENT POLITICAL BALANCE IN THE COUNTRY. VOLPE

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